

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AGR-20 EB-11 IO-12 RSC-01

COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 HEW-08 SCA-01 SCS-03 IGA-02 /115 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7338

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NICOSIA 1049

DEPT PASS USDA; ROME FOR FODAG; TEL AVIV FOR AGATT

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS REQUESTS DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FROM WORLD FOOD
PROGRAM

REF: NICOSIA A-58 OF APRIL 6, 1973

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE GOC HAS MADE FORMAL, WRITTEN REQUEST
TO THE FAO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) FOR:

A. A GRANT OF UP TO 10,000 METRIC TONS OF FEEDGRAINS (BARLEY/
CORN/ WHEAT) FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION TO SOME 33,000 DROUGHT
STRICKEN STOCK BREEDERS.

B. A LOAN OF 60,000-80,000 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT AND BARLEY
FOR DELIVERY BY AUTUMN 1973. END SUMMARY

2. GOC MINAG DIRGEN MICHAELIDES HAS PROVIDED THE
EMBASSY WITH THE TEXT OF THE TWO APPLICATIONS.
ESSENTIAL DETAILS FOLLOW:

A. 10,000 TON FEEDGRAIN GRANT REQUEST: TO MEET WFP PROCEDURES,
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GRAIN OSTENSIBLY TO BE USED IN SUPPORT OF "EXPANDED" WFP CYPRUS PROJECT 309, MIXED FARMING IN DRYLAND AREAS, BROADENED TO PERMIT WIDESPREAD DROUGHT RELIEF. BARLEY PREFERRED. IF ASSISTANCE GIVEN IN FORM OF CORN OR WHEAT, GOC WILL EXCHANGE GRAIN FOR BARLEY ON TON FOR TON BASIS. THE RESULTANT 10,000 TONS OF BARLEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL LIVESTOCK OWNERS WHO HAVE 20 OR MORE SHEEP/ GOATS OR ONE OR MORE CATTLE. PREFERABLY, DISTRIBUTION WILL BE MADE IN SEPTEMBER 1973, SO AS TO COINCIDE WITH CYPRUS LAMBING SEASON. DISTRIBUTION WILL COVER ABOUT 33,000 STOCK BREEDERS AND SOME 510,000 ANIMALS. WFP GRANT WOULD NOT DISPLACE COMMERCIAL IMPORTS BECAUSE AS RESULT OF DROUGHT GOC WILL HAVE TO IMPORT 230,000 TONS OF BARLEY (96 PERCENT OF REQUIREMENTS) IN 1973. GOC INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP WITH REQUEST TO EXPAND AND REORGANIZE WFP CYPRUS PROJECT 309.

B. GRAIN LOAN REQUEST: TO MAKE EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT LESS SEVERE AND TO SPREAD DROUGHT IMPACT OVER SEVERAL YEARS, GOC REQUEST WFP TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITY OF LENDING CYPRUS 60,000-80,000 TONS OF WHEAT AND BARLEY TO BE DELIVERED BY THE AUTUMN OF 1973. GOC WOULD REPAY GRAIN IN KIND WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS EITHER FROM ITS OWN PRODUCTION OR FROM INTERNATIONAL PURCHASES. CYPRUS 1973 WHEAT AND BARLEY REQUIREMENTS WILL TOTAL 100,000 AND 240,000 TONS, RESPECTIVELY. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THIS WILL HAVE TO BE IMPORTED, WHEREAS IN NORMAL YEARS CYPRUS PRODUCES SOME 80-90 PERCENT OF ITS GRAINS REQUIREMENTS.

3. IN APRIL 12 PRELIMINARY MEETING IN ROME, WFP EUROPEAN BRANCH CHIEF J. ANDERSEN TOLD MICHAELIDES THAT, PROVIDED WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AGREES, WFP WOULD BE WILLING ALLOCATE 8-10,000 TONS OF WHEAT, BARLEY OR CORN, UNDER RATIONALE PAR 2 A THIS ONE MILLION DOLLAR EXPENDITURE WOULD BE WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO AUTHORIZE. ANDERSEN ALSO SAID THAT WHILE THE WHEAT/ BARLEY LOAN (PAR 2 B) WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE UNDER CURRENT WFP RULES, WFP WOULD BE WILLING TO RE- EXAMINE POLICY IN LIGHT OF GOC OFFICIAL REQUEST.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY SUPPORTS GOC FEEDGRAIN GRANT REQUEST (PAR 2 A). CYPRUS 1972-73 DROUGHT HAS BEEN MOST SEVERE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CENTURY AND GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK ARE THE TWO HARDEST HIT SECTORS. WFP DRYLAND MIXED FARMING PROJECT IS AIMED AT MEETING THE IMPORTANT NEED OF DIVERSIFYING CYPRUS AGRICULTURE. PROGRAM HAS ACCOMPLISHED MUCH AND ITS EXPANSION WOULD BE USEFUL. FEEDGRAIN GRANT WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT STOCKMEN (GOC HAS ALREADY MADE 16,000 TON FREE BARLEY DISTRIBUTION

ON THIS BASIS THIS YEAR).

5. GOC GRAIN LOAN REQUEST (PARA 2 B) IS ESSENTIALLY ATTEMPT TO
EASE BUDGETARY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE PRESSURES WHICH DROUGHT
WILL CAUSE. THE 34 MILLION DOLLARS THAT CYPRUS' 11973 WHEAT
AND BARLEY IMPORTS ARE LI
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